

# Harbor dredging project gets under way

By John Chaffee  
The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY — The long-awaited dredging of Duxbury Harbor began last night.

Harbormaster Don Beers said a crane barge, two scows and a tugboat arrived Sunday and will work their way down the mile-long entrance channel into the anchorage during the next three weeks.

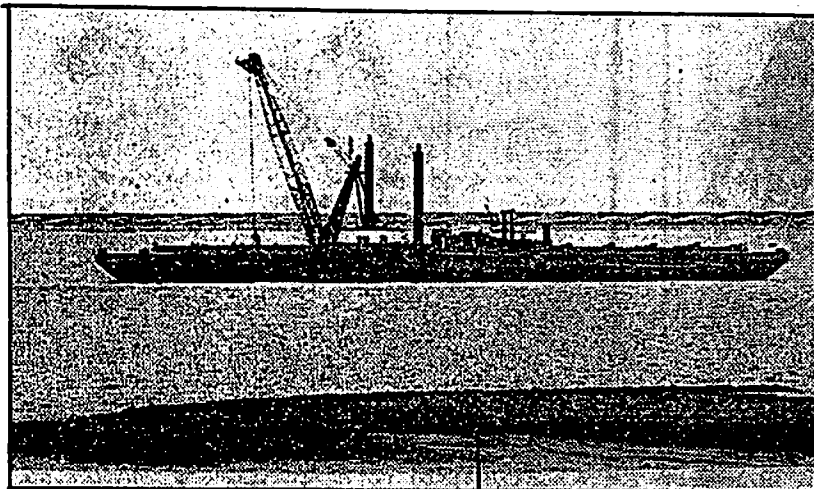
## Duxbury

"I expect they'll reach the mouth of the anchorage by early September," Beers said in a report to selectmen.

He said Weeks Marine of New Jersey, the company that is doing the work under contract with the Army Corps of Engineers, should complete the \$2 million project by Nov. 1.

"This is not a mom-and-pop operation, it's very high-tech and run by computers," Beers said.

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A crane barge, along with two scows and a tugboat, has arrived in Duxbury Harbor for use in the long-awaited dredging project.

He said dredging will be done 24 hours a day, seven days a week until the job is completed.

"When you hear the banging and clanking at night, you'll know it's your harbor being dredged," Beers said.

Beers has told the owners of anchorage moorings that they will need to move their vessels to temporary moorings elsewhere in the harbor by the first week in September.

"It would have been easier to cancel boating in Duxbury for the rest of the season, but our goal is to make local government work here," he said.

About 270,000 cubic yards of material is expected to be scooped from the entrance channel, the anchorage and four waterfront sites that will be dredged as independently funded piggyback projects — the waters in front of the Duxbury Yacht Club, around Town Pier, at Bayside Marine and at Batelle Marine Laboratories.

To do the job, Weeks moved a 150-foot-long, 54-foot-wide crane barge to the site. Flanking the barge are two 200-foot-long scows that will be filled with harbor silt.

As each scow is filled, it will be towed by a tugboat to a dumping site in Cape Cod Bay off Wellfleet, Beers said.

The entrance channel to the anchorage is to be dredged so that it is 100 feet wide and at least 9 feet deep at low tide.

The anchorage is to be dredged to a low-tide depth of at least 8 feet, Beers said.

Duxbury Harbor was last dredged 20 years ago. Since then, so much silt has accumulated in the anchorage that many of the vessels moored there are hung up at low tide and Beers cannot get his patrol boat to Town Pier.

"It's become a real public safety problem," he said.

The dredging will create "very little turbulence" in the harbor and should result in "an incredible improvement to our waterfront," Beers said.

"We're the envy of the South Shore."